

Letters From Readers

THIS ISN'T THE
HIGH-SPEED RAIL
I WAS TALKING
ABOUT ...



Motorsports park not threat to poppies

This is in response to the Viewpoint item by Milt Stark and Margaret Rhynes about the Fairmont Butte Motorsports Park and the Antelope Valley Poppy Reserve: "New race track could kill AV Poppy Reserve."

I am the developer of the Fairmont Butte Motorsports Park project and would like to set the record straight here on a number of issues raised in the opinion.

It's unfortunate that some people with other viewpoints are so willing to distort the facts or leave them out all together. This approach makes it harder for those potentially affected by their claims to discern a good path.

First, I was born and raised in Los Angeles and have raised my family here. I also started my primary business and maintain its headquarters in Los Angeles.

Most importantly, we are certainly not "seeking to destroy the rural atmosphere, natural beauty and tranquility of the western Antelope Valley and Poppy Reserve." Quite the contrary, as those qualities were part of the appeal for our project, and we have no desire to ruin it for anyone. This is why we have spent almost eight years (and many dollars) carefully crafting a responsible plan for a great new recreation facility that minimizes our environmental footprint and blends well with the surrounding area while providing many benefits to the local communities.

One of these benefits is access to on-site facilities for community events, weddings, etc. To allow alcohol to be served and live music, Los Angeles County says that this comes under the heading of "nightclub." But the reality is that this function will be reserved for private parties that rent the facility for special events.

The article also claimed "sustained periods of the roar" of race cars and motorcycles, "which could exist 365 days a year." But the facts are these:

1) The project location is far from the nearest residential area (about five miles) and sound generated by the vehicles is buffered by the Fairmont Butte, which rises about 300 ft.

off the desert floor next to the proposed racetrack.

2) L.A. County-required sound testing has shown that sound levels on the footpaths at the Poppy Reserve were actually below the normally existing (ambient) levels. These areas are about 1.5 miles from the track location.

3) No track in the world runs races 365 days a year, or even fills every weekend with racing — it's just not feasible. Races at FBMP will occur on weekends. Vehicle testing, new car introductions, filming and community events will occur on weekdays and weekends, but the reality is that we'd be extremely lucky to consistently fill our calendar.

4) There will be no night racing. All racing/testing activities will only be in daylight hours. The facility will use "dark sky" lighting for security and maintenance. The track itself will not be lit.

5) We have offered four weeks of noise-restricted activity (essentially cars with street mufflers) during peak poppy season.

The letter goes on to claim that our facility is a "severe threat" to the wildflowers at the Poppy Reserve, but there is no evidence or indication that the Reserve — which is about 1.5 miles from the racetrack and protected by the Fairmont Butte — will be impacted at all. This was confirmed by an L.A. County-approved impact analysis firm, as required by the county.

Just 140 acres of my 320-acre property will be graded for the project. The poppies and goldfields will actually be cultivated on our site as part of the natural landscaping. Like the many people who visit the area in high poppy season, we too are attracted by the natural beauty and intend to nurture it. It's in our — and the community's — best interest to do so.

We look forward to being a good neighbor and partner in the Antelope Valley. We hope you will support our efforts at the upcoming public hearing on Feb. 6 at the Lancaster Public Library.

Thomas E. Malloy
Malloy Family Partners LP
Los Angeles

ners in this country every day. Domestic violence is not specific to one community or ethnic group, it is a serious issue that America needs to deal with and it affects people of all ethnic backgrounds and faiths.

Marquez gives Lancaster a bad name. She must immediately apologize to Antelope Valley Muslims and make amends toward them.

Affan Shaikh
Palmdale

Councilman's remarks taken out of context

You might have seen Santa Clarita City Councilman Bob Keller in the news this week as citizens castigated him at the council meeting for saying at a rally that he was "proud to be a racist."

Naturally, the first part of his statement was unintelligible on all three networks that I watched. I was there. I offered the invocation for the rally, and this is what I heard. Keller's sound bite, in context, was: "They call me a racist because I'm against illegal immigration. If that makes me a racist, I'm proud to be a racist."

By the way, no one mentioned the banner beside him held by Ron Rock, the Lancaster Sheriff's Station Volunteers on Patrol patrolman of the year for 2009, which read: "We support legal immigration."

As a matter of fact, it was hard to get the picture-takers (I'll not refer to them as professional photographers) to photograph the banner during the rally.

Patriots, the time has come to toss political correctness overboard, grab the oars, and get this glorious old ship back on the old United States Constitution's course before the rocks of liberalism, socialism and Marxism wreck her and she sinks to the bottom of that black hole called communism.

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